

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of the claims in the present application and is intended to replace all prior versions and/or any earlier listing of claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently amended): A food preparation table, comprising:

a pan holder which accommodates pans containing ingredient foodstuff items;

an insulated wall surrounding the pan holder and having a flat top surface;

n brackets fixed on the insulated wall, n being an even number; and
n/2 covers for covering or exposing the pan holder, each of the covers including:

two opposite sides;

a pair of first hinge axles which are attached on said two opposite sides, respectively; and

a pair of second hinge axles which are attached on said two opposite sides, respectively,

wherein the pair of first hinge axles are closer to a center portion of each of the covers than the pair of second hinge axles, and

wherein the first and the second hinge axles are slidably engaged with two brackets among said n brackets and each of the brackets includes a guide surface for guiding one of the first axles, which is a curved slant surface ~~so with said~~
guide surface having a continuous curvature which is slanted in a direction toward
the second hinge axles such that when the covers are opened, the covers will
necessarily move upward and then forward along the curved slant surface in the
slanted direction.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (currently amended): The food preparation table of claim [7] 6, wherein each of the brackets further includes a guide opening extended parallel with the top surface of the insulated wall for guiding one of the second hinge axles.

9.(Original): The food preparation table of claim 8, wherein each of the brackets further includes a support portion which is disposed at a lowest portion of the guide surface and prevents said one of the first hinge axles from moving downward to reduce impact occurring between the insulated wall and one of the covers which has said one of the first hinge axles.

10. (Original): The food preparation table of claim 9, wherein each of the brackets further includes a front protrusion which is connected to the support portion and is opposite to the guide surface with respect to the support portion, and wherein said one of the first hinge axles collides with the front protrusion

when one of the covers which has said one of the first hinge axles is accidentally dropped.

11.(Original): The food preparation table of claim 10, wherein the front protrusion is provided with a slant surface which is formed on a side of the front protrusion facing the guide surface and is covered with an impact absorbing material, and wherein said one of the first hinge axles collides with the slant surface when one of the covers which has said one of the first hinge axles is accidentally dropped.